

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 IO-13 HA-05 /094 W  
-----106003 151813Z /50

R 151655Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5712  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3592

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT PO BR  
SUBJ: EXILED EX-PRESIDENT TOMAS CAN RETURN TO PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES ANNOUNCED MAY 11 THAT HE HAD  
DECIDED TO ALLOW EXILED FORMER PRESIDENT AMERICO TOMAS TO  
RETURN TO PORTUGAL. THE DECISION, TAKEN TO PLACATE THE  
BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY BEFORE EANES' STATE VISIT  
THERE LATER THIS MONTH, OPENED OLD WOUNDS IN PORTUGAL.  
END SUMMARY.

1. EXILE LIFTED: IN A CRYPTIC THREE-PARAGRAPH ANNOUNCEMENT,  
PRESIDENT EANES ANNOUNCED MAY 11 THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO  
ALLOW EXILED FORMER PRESIDENT AMERICO TOMAS TO RETURN TO  
PORTUGAL. THE DECISION STATED THAT NO LEGAL PROCESS AGAINST  
TOMAS WAS IN PROGRESS, NOR HAD ANY INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE  
BEEN FOUND AGAINST HIM. FOR THESE REASONS, AND CITING  
"CIRCUMSTANCES AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS," EANES HAD INFORMED  
TOMAS THAT HE MAY RETURN FROM EXILE IN  
BRAZIL. TOMAS'S FROZEN BANK ACCOUNTS IN PORTUGAL WERE ALSO  
RELEASED.

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2. REACTION GENERALLY NEGATIVE: REACTION FROM POLITICAL  
PARTIES RANGED FROM SUPPORT FROM THE RIGHT TO STRONG  
OPPOSITION FROM THE SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, AND FAR LEFT.  
CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL AND THE PSD ISSUED STATEMENTS  
SUPPORTING THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF THE DECISION. ALTHOUGH  
PRIME MINISTER SOARES WAS INFORMED OF THE DECISION

BEFOREHAND AND PROBABLY CONSENTED, THE REACTION FROM THE PS WAS STRONGLY NEGATIVE. PS ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES GAVE A STANDING OVATION TO UDP DEPUTY ACACIO BARREIROS WHEN HE BITTERLY ATTACKED THE DECISION IN AN ASSEMBLY SPEECH. THE PCP AT FIRST DELAYED A FORMAL STATEMENT, BUT CALLED THE DECISION "SHOCKING." THE PCP SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED THE FTHORUS OF CONDEMNATION ON THE LEFT.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT EANES REACHED HIS DECISION PARTLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS AND PARTLY TO REMOVE AN ISSUE OF CONCERN TO THE BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY BEFORE HIS STATE VISIT THERE LATER THIS MONTH. EANES WAS AWARE THAT TOMAS WAS LIVING ON SUPPORT FROM PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS IN BRAZIL. THE BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY HAD ALSO SENT EANES A PETITION WITH 200,000 SIGNATURES URGING THAT TOMAS BE ALLOWED TO RETURN. BUT ALTHOUGH NO ONE WOULD CONSIDER THE 83-YEAR OLD TOMAS A POLITICAL THREAT, THE REACTION TO THE DECISION SHOWS THAT MEMORIES OF TOMAS' ROLE IN THE FORMER REGIME ARE STILL STRONG. REFLECTING THE DIFFICULTY THAT MANY WILL HAVE IN ACCEPTING THE DECISION, THE LIBERAL WEEKLY "EXPRESSO" EDITORIALIZED: "WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULT SITUATION OF ANY CITIZEN OR POLITICIAN FATIGUED BY YEARS AND TORMENTED BY EXILE. WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. WE CAN ACCEPT THE ARGUMENT THAT THE DECISION WAS OPPORTUNE. BUT WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT AN ACT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENEROSITY MAY BE INTERPRETED AS ABSOLUTION OF A REGIME AND OF ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT OFFICIALS. IF IT IS, ALL THAT PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATS DID AND ARE DOING TO MAKE DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE IN PORTUGAL WILL BE WORTHLESS."  
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, EXILES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LISBON03592  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780205-0734  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** EXILED EX-PRESIDENT TOMAS CAN RETURN TO PORTUGAL SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES ANNOUNCED MAY 11 THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO ALLOW EXILED FORMER PRESIDENT AMERICO T  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, BR, (TOMAS, AMERICO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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